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DIRECTORATE OF  
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18 December 1969

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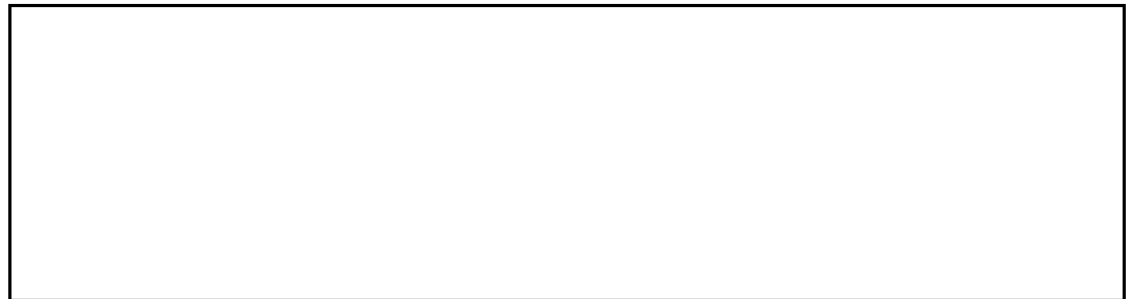
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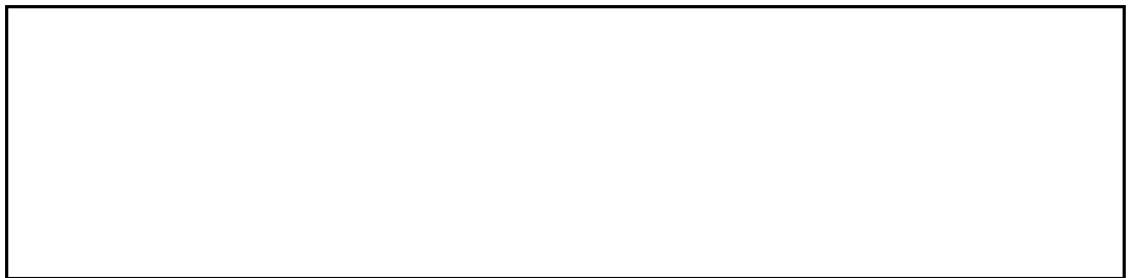
# *Central Intelligence Bulletin*

## *CONTENTS*



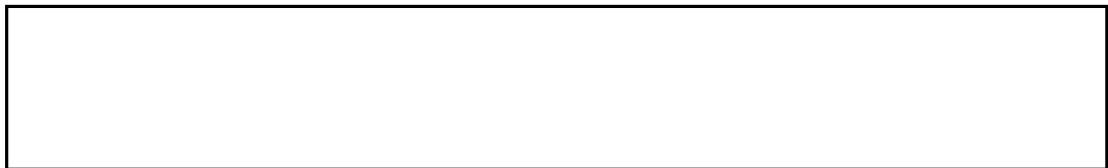
25X1

Arab States: The summit conference in Rabat is expected to concentrate on strengthening Arab military capabilities. (Page 3)

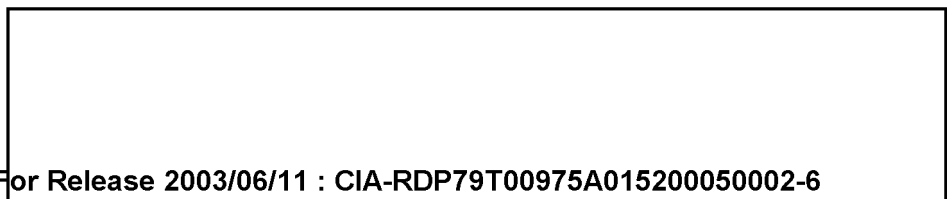


25X1

Panama: The country is now calm. (Page 6)



25X1



25X1

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Arab States: The Arab summit conference, which opens in Rabat on Saturday, is expected to concentrate on strengthening Arab military capabilities.

25X1

The US is likely to receive some verbal abuse because of its alleged complete support of Israel. More tangible expressions of radical Arab displeasure, such as breaking diplomatic relations, may be suggested, but the more moderate states are unlikely to go along with such proposals. There will probably be calls for better military coordination among Arab states, and for increasing the number of states involved in the struggle against Israel. The summit leaders will, however, probably stop short of calling for immediate war.

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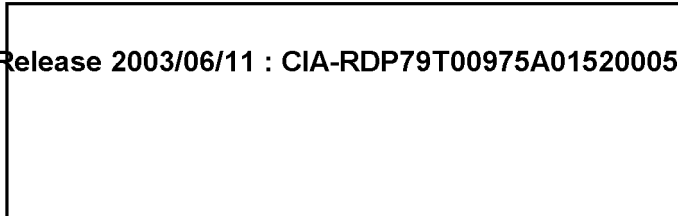
18 Dec 69

Central Intelligence Bulletin

3

25X1

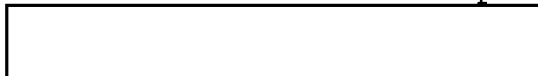
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Panama: The country is now calm, and General Torrijos appears to be firmly in control of the situation.

US military observers in Panama believe that Torrijos will not assume the presidency but will continue as commandant of the National Guard. Colonels Pinilla and Urrutia, the titular leaders of the Provisional Junta Government, are still confined to the Presidential Palace, but they have not yet been removed from office. The general and his staff have been holding strategy meetings in an effort to resolve their status.

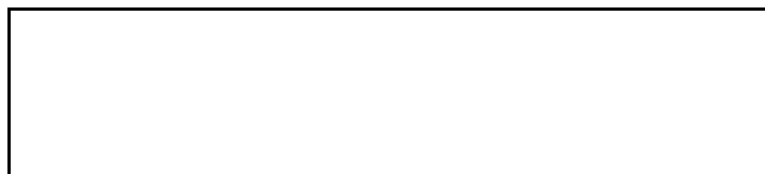
A small number of Guard officers who opposed Torrijos, including coup leaders Silvera and Sanjur, have been jailed. Torrijos is apparently trying to avoid further dividing the Guard, however, and any additional arrests will probably be highly selective.



18 Dec 69

*Central Intelligence Bulletin*

6



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